



MICHELLE A. McMANUS
35TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-1725
FAX: (517) 373-0741
TOLL-FREE: (866) 305-2135
senmmcmanus@senate.michigan.gov

**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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MECOSTA, MISSAUKEE, OSCEOLA, ROSCOMMON, WEXFORD

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THANKING AMERICA'S HEROES

How do you repay someone for a gift as grand and profound as freedom itself? Two small but important words are a start: **Thank you!** Today is Veterans Day, and on this special day a grateful nation offers heartfelt thanks to those who have protected and preserved our freedom.

Many Americans remember first celebrating Veterans Day as Armistice Day, a day to honor our nation's World War I heroes. Over the years, what began as a day to commemorate the end of the "War to end all Wars" developed into a holiday of deep personal and patriotic meaning as millions and millions of Americans were called into battle in World War II and the Korean War.

In 1954, the holiday was changed to Veterans Day and President Eisenhower urged Americans to pay tribute to those who served our country in all wars. Today, we give thanks for the sacrifices of the nearly 25 million living veterans who answered our nation's call to duty in the cause of peace and freedom around the world.

We realize now, more than ever before, that freedom can never be taken for granted. The challenges and threats we face in this new century have given us renewed appreciation for the bravery and honor of all those who serve and have served our country. Truly, the life and liberty we cherish today is owed to generations of our nation's servicemen and women.

This Veterans Day, please remember these two important words and thank a vet for keeping our nation strong and free.

Sen. Michelle McManus
35th District
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1725